

Appl. No. 10/569,162
Amdt. dated 08/10/2007
Reply to Office Action of 04/11/2007

Amendments to the Drawings:

Please substitute the Replacement Sheets 1/7 through 7/7, submitted concurrently herewith, for the corresponding drawing sheets originally filed with the application. The replacement sheets do not add new matter to the application and the changes are fully supported by the specification as originally filed.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The disclosure has been objected to under 37 CFR §1.71 for the reasons set forth on page 2 of the Office Action. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the conclusion that the disclosure is "incomprehensible." Perhaps this conclusion arises from the fact that the Examiner either overlooked the fact that drawings were, in fact, filed with the application, or the drawings filed are now missing from the file. As is evident from the attached return receipt, drawings were filed, and should be in the file.

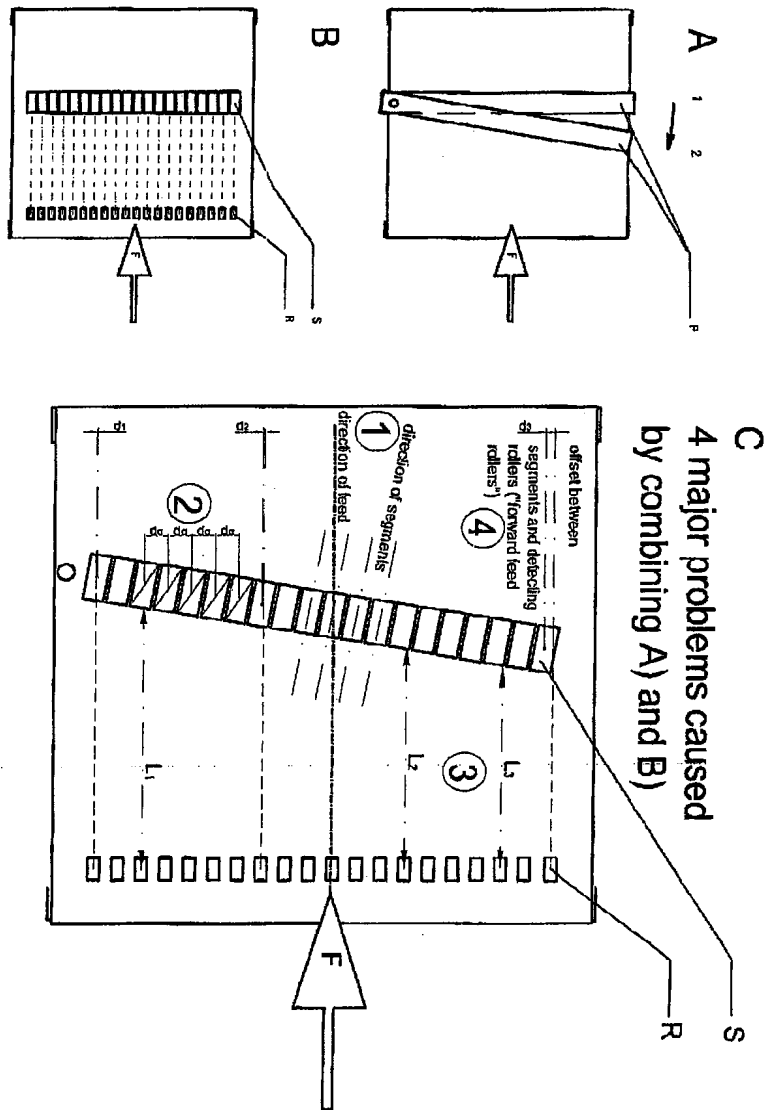
For the Examiner's information, a European Patent based on the German language version of the same application has already been granted. A copy of European Patent No. 1,542,830 is enclosed.

A Specification, without the addition of new matter, is enclosed for entry in the case. Another copy of the drawings as filed on February 20, 2006 have also been submitted. In response to the specific inquiries set out in the Office Action, the sensing elements 15 detect the workpiece shape and transmit the shape to the pad segments 11, which are then adjusted accordingly. The inclination of the sanding block is described with respect to its conventional feed direction.

Reconsideration of the rejection under 37 CFR §1.71 is respectfully requested.

New claims 5-8 have been entered in the case. New claims 5-8 distinctly claim and particularly point out the novel features of the invention. Cancelled Claims 1-4 were rejected as anticipated by Hessemann Patent No. 4,601,134.

With reference to the drawing set out immediately below:



Reference is also made to the Kreipe Patent No. DE3933697.

The drawing "A" shows rotation of a conventional solid platen from position 1 to position 2, according to Kreipe. Drawing "B" shows the principle of the Hesseemann segmented pad with the "detecting roller bar" in front of the pad. Drawing "C", according to the claimed invention, shows why Hesseemann does not anticipate the claimed invention.

1. The segments "S" are no longer aligned with the feed direction as in Hesseemann;
2. The distances between the segments (perpendicular to the feed direction) change in relation to the crossfeed angle "da";
3. The distance between the forward feed rollers "R" and the respective segments "S" change, and are different for all rollers and segments;;
4. The offsets d1, d2, d3 between the segments and the forward feed rollers "R" increase with the distances from the individual segments to the pivot.

Hesseemann does not anticipate the claimed invention for the reasons stated above, and applicant submits that the application is in a condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asks that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued for the application. If the Examiner believes that any issues regarding this application remain, she is invited to contact the undersigned attorney. If there are any fees due in connection with this matter, please charge Applicant's Deposit Account No. 01-0265.

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Respectfully submitted,

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